



Work Zone Safety Bulletin

August 2005

WORK ZONE TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Work Zone Safety Task Force Technical Sub-Committee has identified the issue of traffic control plan development as an emphasis area in an effort to ultimately improve safety and mobility in our work zones.

Traffic Control Plan Development

A comprehensive set of Traffic Control Plans (TCP's) must be developed to address all construction project work areas that impact traffic flow and access and to pedestrian and bicycles movements. A work zone PS&E package must also contain the appropriate level of TCP development to adequately address the work zone issues involved as follows:

- Site Specific TCP's – usually detailed, scaled plans that reflect actual work zone locations.
- Job Specific TCP's – not necessarily scaled, but with enough detail to show a specific work zone or operation for the project.
- Typical TCP's – may be a new or an existing traffic control plan, but is reflective of a common work zone or operation not restricted to any one location.

The Regions are encouraged to develop specific traffic control plans to fit individual work operations based on the standards and guidelines shown in the Design Manual, Work Zone Traffic Control Guidelines Manual and the MUTCD. Typical applications shown in the Design Manual, Work Zone Guidelines or MUTCD may not be adequate to address the specific needs of a work operation.

Any given PS&E may utilize all types of TCP's or possibly only one type. Special traffic control details may also be needed to provide emphasis to a specific item. The following list represents a few of the TCP issues that are commonly overlooked.

- Lack of detail or missing details
- Temporary pavement marking and channelization plans
- Staging plans that adequately address constructability issues
- Vertical conflicts (drop-offs and over-height conflicts)
- Typical roadway cross-section details, especially for temporary roadway or lane configurations
- Incorporation of existing or conflicting features
- Missing work zone operation
- Crossroad or local roadway conflict
- Adequate capacity for expected traffic volume

- TCP for work area ingress and egress

Consideration of these issues and others will help to ensure that work zones are adequately addressed early in the process and result in the best possible outcome during construction. New Federal rules on work zones are currently being phased in and focus on compliance elements that address all safety and mobility impacts. More information on these rules will be forthcoming as our policies and standards are updated. WSDOT provides for many of these compliance elements already, but they are not always adequately incorporated into our projects. Improving our performance on the above elements of Traffic control plan development will not only provide a higher level of safety and mobility but will also put us in a better position to comply with the new rules. Please consider the above issues as our construction projects are developed.

Contact your Region Traffic Office for more information and assistance.



Washington State
Department of Transportation
Work Zone Safety Task Force